



## The RBTT Bank and the Free Zone Aruba recognize future “Captains of Industry”

On Thursday, March 1, the Minister of Finance, Nilo Swaen, joined Greg Peterson, director of the Free Zone Aruba N.V. (FZA) and Edna Farro, president of the RBTT Bank in Aruba, in recognizing the fledgling “Think Tank” of exceptional students in the VWO level 5 of the Colegio Arubano.

An essay contest had been conducted amongst those studying Economics, in connection with the tenth anniversary celebration of the FZA, and both Ms. Farro and Mr. Peterson report they were “very impressed with the results.”

The task of the students was to focus their creativity on the actual Aruban Economic situation with export enhancement as a goal. To further inform the students and augment their proposals, the FZA organized educational visits to numerous business facilities on the island for the students. The administration of the Colegio Arubano and the Department of Education also cooperated in the advancement of this project, and Judith Tromp attended the awards, representing the Minister of Education, Marisol Tromp-Lopez.

Additionally present were the proud parents of the winners, and former art teacher and principal of the Colegio Arubano, Mr. Nigel Matthew. His presence was requested by Greg Peterson, who wished to recognize Nigel Matthew “as the best teacher I ever had,” and present him with a plaque inscribed with this sentiment. “In our lives, there is perhaps someone we particularly remember as helping and motivating us, and for me, that is Nigel Matthew,” announced Greg Peterson, “having a good teacher is one of the best assets a student can ever have in his career. Teachers should be appreciated much more for what they contribute to society.” Mr. Matthew, visibly touched by this gesture, in turn reminded the gathering of parents and teachers that there is nothing greater than seeing students succeed and they should be aware that, “teachers have the power to inspire or break a student. It is a privilege to motivate a child.”

Thursday’s gathering at the Chamber of Commerce building was devoted to awarding the outstanding essays with Visa Gift Cards from the RBTT Bank and the FZA in the amounts of 350 Aruban florins (\$200) for the first place winners, 250 florins for second, and 175 florins for the six third place winners. Ms. Farro expressed that the awarding of the cards assists the youngsters “in gaining knowledge of not only the economics and finances of our country, but also the importance of personal finance. The RBTT Visa Gift Cards, with their limit, teach them you cannot spend more than what you have on the card.”

Mr. Matthew was requested to present the awards to the first place winners, Mariel Arends, Jorge Duarte, and Khristella Werleman. Edna Farro performed the honors for the second and third place winners. Gabriel Boekhoudt and Taryn Thijzen won second place awards, and in third place were Bob Mulder, Sebastiaan Mulder, Arjen van der Logt, Illiandra Figaroa, Erol Perez and Jessica Villamil. Minister Nilo Swaen distributed certificates of accomplishment to all the winners.

Ms. Farro revealed that she had read every essay, as had Mr. Peterson, and they were gratified by the creativity and depth of understanding of the workings of the FZA by the students. “The fact that many of the proposed business procedures in their essays are already in practice in the FZA displayed their understanding of its workings, but a number of suggestions were also very creative. The students additionally showed a great deal of social awareness, and expressed ideas as to how business can also improve the community and not only exist for profit. This is also very encouraging for these are the “Captains of Industry” of the future,” was a sentiment shared by both Ms. Farro and Mr. Peterson.

Ms. Tromp also stated that the Ministry of Education is “Very pleased that the private sector offers this opportunity for education and understanding of the business community.” The organizers of the program particularly wished to thank those present that day, and additionally Edwin Roos, the Colegio Arubano, the Department of Education, ATIA, AHATA, APA, Aruba Airport Authority, FTA (Labor Union,) AIB, Lighthouse, Price Waterhouse-Coopers, The University of Aruba, Meta Corporation, Valero Refinery Aruba, ASTEC, Demart Promotion, De Palm Tours, Colarin and the Chamber of Commerce for their cooperation in this project.